

To: Education Committee

RE: Raised Bill No. 1106,

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY
EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Date: March 7, 2011

Dear Education Committee Members,

My name is Deborah Tyson, and I run a home-based day care in Hartford. I have been a provider for the past 22 years. I believe home-based child care offers the best affordable quality care option for many families in our state. While at the same time, children in home-based care get a great deal of individual attention which many families are looking for. But like many providers I know- it's getting harder and harder to stay in business because the rules and payment policies that we are subjected to often leave us unpaid for some of the care we give.

My fellow providers and I have come up with some simple reforms that wouldn't cost the state any significant amount of money - but would make it easier for providers like me to keep our doors open. And the more of us that are in business, the more choices parents have and the quality of care would improve for the entire state.

Simple things like a faster approval process for subsidies, taxes taken out of the payments ahead of time, and direct deposit would all go a long way towards helping spend more time with children and less time on paperwork and trips to the bank.

If providers were to have a unified voice, as described in S.B. No. 1106, we would be able to advocate for low-cost changes such as these and could work with the state to improve quality in many other ways as well.

Sincerely,

Deborah Tyson
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